

OGDEN CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1914.

THE TERRIBLE FATE OF MAMAH BORTHWICK IN HER BUNGALOW OF LOVE

Woman, Who With Frank Lloyd Wright, Dared Live Contrary to Accepted Rules of Conduct, Meets Disaster in a Few Short Years



A new-made grave in a lonely Wisconsin wood is all that is left of the Kingdom of Love, which Frank Lloyd Wright, world-famed architect, established a few short years ago when he threw aside the conventions of the world, man-made conventions he called them, and left his wife and family to be with his "soul mate," wife of his neighbor.

It was easy enough five years ago for Wright to talk of idealism, but today with the new-made grave up in the Wisconsin wood, it is a different tale. Not only does that one grave refute his arguments, but two urns of his soul mate's children in a Chicago crematorium and the other dead deny his declarations.

The old law "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife," was so much trash to Wright. It hadn't been proven to him, and he could out-argue those who found fault with his course and who not only condemned him, but also condemned Mamah Borthwick Cheney for leaving her husband and going with Wright. Wright and Mamah Borthwick were governed by a law made by themselves. They refused to be bound by any provisions of others and therefore established a kingdom of their own in the land of their own, where they built their own "Love Bungalow" and surrounded it with a lovely flower garden.

Had the woman's life not been ended in such a tragic manner, Wright still might be able to argue with his accusers, but up in the Wisconsin woods the people are stern in their beliefs, and point to the tragic ruin of the "Kingdom of Love" as the strongest argument that the Avenging Angel still flies and that the one who wrecked the home was only another Darius the Mede destroying another Feast of Belshazzar to inflict the wrath of the gods.

The Darius in this case was a negro cook, Mamah Borthwick was high in her glory. She was entertaining a number of Wright's friends and he was soon expected from Chicago. With her in the bungalow were her two children, a daughter, 16 years old, and a son, 13 years old. Surrounding the house were flowers she had planted herself. The world had renounced her, but she cared not for the world.

She had her two children and she was the servant of her soul master.

She had reproved the negro cook just before dinner and enraged him, but she dismissed the incident as not worth thinking about and led Wright's friends into the dining room. Suddenly a flaming rug was thrown across the door. It was soaked with kerosene and escape through that way was impossible. Mamah Borthwick made a dash for the window. As she came through a hatchet crashed into her head. Her little innocent son sprang after her without knowing what evil had befallen his mother. He, too, was struck on the head with the fatal hatchet. A daughter jumped. She was stricken down. Then the guests jumped through the window. One by one the fiendish negro struck them. When he had finished, six lay dead and three wounded seriously.

Wright was notified in his office in Chicago. He hurried to the place and found his kingdom in ruins.

"SOUL MATE" IS BURIED WITHOUT CEREMONY.

Without ceremony the body of Mamah Borthwick was laid to rest in the hills shortly after dusk. Wright buried his dead almost alone. The only other persons present when the pine box was lowered into the grave and covered with flowers from her own garden were two nephews, Orrin Lloyd Jones and Ralph Lloyd Jones, and Wright's son, James. There was not even the formality of a prayer.

Sheriff Bauer organized the search for Carlton, the negro slayer, as soon as he learned of the murder. Posses of farmers joined with the Sheriff's deputies and bloodhounds were obtained to take up his trail. The men at first were inclined to believe that Carlton had escaped down the Wisconsin River in a canoe.

While neighbors guarded the grounds and the men with the hounds were searching for a definite trace, Carlton crawled from the doors of a boiler. He was nearly suffocated from the heat and appeared thoroughly exhausted. He said he had taken poison, but would give no reason for the crime. Mrs. Carlton, who had been employed with her husband, was arrested shortly after the tragedy

when she was found, dazed, walking along the highway near the house. She denied any participation in the affair.

The negro, who is believed to have become enraged at some rebuke from Mrs. Borthwick, displayed fiendish ingenuity in the slaughter.

The fire was confined to the bungalow and, when it had been controlled, neighbors, many of whom formerly had been bitter against Mrs. Borthwick, joined the posse in search of the murderer.

DIVORCE OBTAINED BY CHENEY.

Frank Lloyd Wright, who is one of the best known architects in the Central States and is credited with being among the first to design a bungalow in this country, was estranged from his wife several years ago, after a scandal which linked his name with that of Mrs. Mamah Borthwick Cheney, the wife of a neighbor in Oak Park, a Chicago suburb. Later Mr. Cheney obtained a divorce and Mrs. Cheney and Wright made several trips together. Two years ago Wright built a bungalow at Spring Green, Wis., which was called "Love's Bungalow" by neighbors, and the architect and Mrs. Cheney were reported to have made frequent visits to the house in the woods.

The affairs of the Wright and Cheney families first became public in 1909, when Mrs. Cheney and Mr. Wright departed for Europe, where they remained until early in 1910. On their return Mrs. Cheney did not go to her home in Oak Park, where she had left her children with her husband. Wright, however, went to his family and reports of forgiveness and reconciliation were current.

A wall separating the Wright home into two apartments was erected. Mrs. Wright occupied one and Wright the other. The children spent part of the time with each. After a month or so, a reconciliation was effected and the dividing wall was torn down.

Cheney brought suit for divorce, charging desertion, and August 5, 1911, an absolute decree was granted. Mrs. Cheney made no defense to the suit and Wright's name was not mentioned. Her maiden name, Mamah Bouton Borthwick, was re-

stored.

Shortly before Christmas it was learned the bungalow at Spring Green was nearly completed and just before the holidays, terming their trip a "spiritual begira," Mrs. Cheney and Wright left together for Wisconsin. During Christmas week Wright issued many public statements defending his course in leaving his Oak Park home.

Mrs. Wright, however, took no steps toward a divorce and, with her children, the oldest of whom is now a grown man, remained at home in the Chicago suburb.

Cheney was remarried in 1912. About the time of his marriage the two Cheney children, Martha and John, joined Mrs. Cheney at the Spring Green home and since have lived there.

Carlton, the chef accused of the murders, had been employed in Chicago until four months ago at the home of John A. Vogebang, Jr., cafe owner. The negro was recommended to Wright as an excellent and honest workman.

The staunchest advocate of the affinity idea was Ferdinand Pinney Earle, who waxes one after another sought relief in the divorce

UPPER LEFT—Mamah Borthwick Cheney. Upper right—Frank Lloyd Wright.

courts. He set his opinions against the opinions of centuries and decided that if it was not good for man to live alone, it was decidedly better for him to have a lot of company. How Earle fared he never told the world, but the women took action against him and declared him to be a cruel tyrant. More fresh in memory is the story of Floretta Whaley, who eloped to San Francisco with a New York clergyman, Jere Knode Cooke. It was many years before Cooke's first wife would release him from the yoke of marriage, and she did it for the sake of the two children of Cooke and Floretta Whaley, because they were not to blame and she wanted to give them a mother.

Quaker Speech. At a Friends' meeting in Phil-

adelphia the other day several speakers expressed regret that the distinctive Quaker speech, known as the "plain language," was going so rapidly out of use. It was asserted that the gentleness that distinguished it made it especially desirable and effective and that the influence of Friends was in a measure decreased by its abandonment.

Doubtless this view is correct. The Quaker speech, now so rarely heard, was always much liked by people not members of the sect because it was associated with calmness and serenity of manner. Probably this serenity was a quality not dependent on the language used, but was a matter of temperament and habit, but it seemed an essential accompaniment of the gentle "thee and thou" and other peculiar forms of address. As used, this Quaker speech was not strictly grammatical—"Thee is," for example, being open to objection if anyone ever thought of it in a critical way. Nevertheless, "thee is" had its charm.

The passing of the Quaker con-

tume was also spoken of with some regret, yet those who lamented its disappearance were not insistent on its re-adoption. Apparently they saw no especial connection between the plain garb and the plain language, yet there undoubtedly is one.

The speech is expected from wearers of the distinctive costume—the straight, severe gowns and the close fitting bonnets, and loses its effectiveness when it comes from the lips of a woman arrayed in fashionable attire. The change in dress was urged by the young generation of Quakers on the plea that the old fashions set them apart from their neighbors and were a hindrance.

Linoleum Germ Proof.

In testing for germs it is often found that such substances as stone, wood, porcelain, glass, etc., are sterile. A number of years ago Privy Councillor E. Fischer made the observation that on certain building materials disease germs quickly die. L. Bitter has shown that germs perish within one day on the surface of linoleum.

As far back as 1901 Jacobowitz proved that the germ-killing effect of the much-acclaimed "disinfecting wall paints" was due to the chemical effect of the linseed oil used as a binding medium. Since the essential constituents of linoleum are cork and a large quantity of linseed oil, its disinfecting capacity is not to be wondered at. But in the case of the disinfecting wall paints the sterilizing power wears off in a few months because the linseed oil dries, while linoleum has a lasting effect.

Hence linoleum operates to kill the majority of the micro-organisms brought in on the shoes. Frequent moistening accelerates this disinfecting property. Hence all disease germs which do not form spores quickly die on a linoleum.

Weeping at Weddings.

"Why does every girl weep at a wedding?" "Because it isn't her wedding, perhaps."